THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) to (c) The work of new line from Jakhapura to Banspani was sanctioned in 1974-75. After opening up Jakhpura-Daitari section in 1981 the anticipated traffic of iron ore from Daitari mines did not materialise. Consequently, and also due to severe constraint of resources, construction of balance portion from Daitari to Banspani was deleted from the Works Programme.

A proposal has been received through Ministry of Surface Transport (MOST) and Minerals & Metals Trading Corporation Ltd (MMTC) in connection with development of Paradip Port for export of iron ore. Construction of Daitari-Banspani railway line (143 km) at a cost of Rs 175 00 crores is included in the proposal However, whereas the Railways will be in a position to make the necessary arrangements for construction of the rail link keeping pace with the progress of the above project, it will be necessary for M.M T.C. to provide funds for the railway line as a part of the total project Accordingly, they have been asked to provide an amount of Rs. 175.00 crores (exclusive of escalation cost for this work).

Further action regarding construction of Daitari-Banspani rail link can be taken if and when MOST and MMTC finalise the funding of the whole scheme.

Closure of Government of India Stationery Offices Calcutta and other places

1011. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that previous Government had recommended against the closure of Government of India Stationery offices, Calcutta and other places;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken a decision on the matter, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a representation dated 7th December, 1990 addressed to the Prime Minister by the Government of India Stationery office Mazdur Union, Calcutta has been received, and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DAULAT RAM SARAN) (a) and (b) The matter is still under consideration of the Government.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The matter is under consideration.

'Introduction of New Policy on Catering'

1012. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that a new policy on catering was introduced for inviting tender/auction of tea stalls on Railways,

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) whether the new catering policy is a departure from the accepted recommendations made by previous Parliamentary Committees appointed in 1955 and 1967 *viz* the Alagesan Committee and the Parimal Ghosh Committee;

(d) whether the new policy would be beneficial for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, Freedom Fighters, Widows and Ex-Servicemen; and

(e) whether Government propose to review the new catering policy and restore the old policy which guarantees social justice to weaker sections of the society?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) and (b) A policy decision has been taken that all catering/vending licences, excepting at small and roadside stations, will be allotted by calling tenders.

(c) No, Sir.